

SUGAR and PLANTATION NEWS

Use of Tractors Figures Big In Plantation Work

Modern Draught Machines Multiply Four Times Over In Course of Short Year and a Half and More Are Wanted At Once

Caterpillar tractors and motor trucks have in the last few months become one of the most important items of equipment on the Hawaiian plantation until today hardly a crop is harvested without the aid of these two products of the gasoline age. It is only within recent years that tractors and motor trucks have replaced "animal" power. In 1912 there were three tractors in the Islands and today the number runs well over a hundred. Motor trucks are almost as numerous on plantations now as pleasure automobiles.

The majority of the plantations that have purchased one or two tractors as "experiments" have followed quickly with orders for more and hardly a manager who mentions that his plantation is equipped with tractors but adds that "more have been ordered."

Meet All Requirements
Plowing, furrowing, cultivating, hauling cane cars or wagons and a dozen other useful purposes are being found for the tractor on island plantations. Pioneer plantation is an example of the rapidity with which gasoline vehicles and tractors are replacing animals. The motor truck on the roadway and the tractor in the fields will soon make stock a minor feature of the average plantation in the opinion of managers. Pioneer has two caterpillar tractors at present and has ordered two more.

Prove Big Savings
"The tractors are savers of time, money and trouble," says L. Weinberger, manager of Pioneer. "It's a case of no more accidents when we depend on Caterpillars. One tractor replaces five four-mule teams and is cheaper to maintain. With two Caterpillar tractors and four men, we are doing the same work that formerly required forty mules and twenty men and we are doing the work more safely and more quickly."

Pioneer plantation numbers among its motor equipment one five-ton, one three-ton, four 2½-ton, and four light motor trucks.

Wailuku Makes Success

H. R. Penhallow, manager of Wailuku plantation is another booster for tractors and similar sentiments are expressed by managers throughout the Islands. On Wailuku two Caterpillars are doing excellent work—a seventy-five horsepower machine easily accomplishing thirty acres a day with a chain harrow while a forty-five horsepower tractor is being used among other things for hauling cane cars over the fields on portable track to the main line tracks. Moving boulders that would otherwise require strenuous efforts of men and mules is one of the lesser accomplishments of the tractors on Wailuku.

Are Adopted Rapidly
Evidence of the rapidity with which these machines have been taken up is shown in these statistics.

It is estimated that there are now in use among the plantations of the Islands 136 tractors of different types. Of these ninety-nine are Caterpillar tractors, approximately thirty C. L. Beet Tractorlayers, four Cleveland motors, two Samson and one Yale Ball.

But the growth of the use of the tractor in Hawaii is more clearly shown by the fact that in the past eighteen months there have been brought down here eighty new Caterpillars for plantation use, more than four times as many as were previously in use.

Of the Caterpillar tractor the most popular has proven the forty-five horsepower of which there were brought down thirty-three while formerly only three were in use. The other forty-seven Caterpillars were of eighteen, thirty and seventy-five horsepower.

SUGAR QUOTATIONS SHOW DIFFERENCES

Sugar agencies here are puzzled over the fact that while advices have been received that the price of refined sugar on the Pacific Coast has been cut to \$7.25 a hundred no such advices have been received from New York. In fact the last advices from New York that the Sugar Factors Company have on file are \$8.40 and \$8.35 and the last New York quotation on raws was 6.90 cents.

Explanation of this is being sought here but is not obtainable. It is suggested that the sugar coming into Pacific Ports is from here or from the Philippines and so the price can be readily controlled while as yet definite arrangement has not been made between the United States and Cuba for a fixing of the same maximum price and so an extension of time has been given Atlantic Coast sugar dealers and refiners. This is merely a surmise.

Another surmise is that while the control of sugar price may have gone into effect in New York as in San Francisco, the message telling of it has been delayed in transmission or that it was assumed that Hawaii would take it for granted that it had gone into effect.

TRACTORS at work. The upper picture shows a forty-five-horsepower tractor drawing cars over a portable track and the lower a seventy-five-horsepower tractor pulling a chain harrow in one of the upper fields of the Wailuku Plantation.



PHILIPPINE SUGAR GROWERS ARE NOT IN OPTIMISTIC MOOD

Although Bulk of Present Stored Crop Is To Be Moved Plantation Men Are Not Enthusiastic On Possible Profits In Coming Crop and Fear It Will Drag Back

Sugar growers in the Philippines are inclined to be discouraged and are manifestly worried on the subject of marketing of crops and of profits, despite the fact that the food control price is satisfactory to other sections. High freights and lack of bottoms are the chief causes of discouragement. This news is of more than ordinary interest here at this time when several representative sugar men are about to visit the Philippines to investigate the sugar industry there with the possibility ahead, if they find conditions warrant, of Honolulu furnishing the capital for a central or for central plants.

On the subject of sugar in storage and its removal and the sugar industry in general the Manila Times of August 31 swings back and forth between optimism and pessimism and says:

Old Crop to Move

Definite assurances have been given the sugar men of Iloilo that practically all of the muscovado sugar which has been stored for so long in the southern warehouses will be out of the way by the time this year's crop begins to come in. This means that of the 70,000 tons of sugar now in Iloilo bodegas, more than 50,000 will be sold and exported. The remaining 20,000 tons are of centrifugal sugar and less concern is felt about it than for the low grade product.

The situation in the Negros-Iloilo district has been saved by the increased demand from China, due to more settled conditions here and the insular government's pledge that the sugar will be moved in the ex-German ships. If necessary, the government will use German ships bound for the States, to take the low grade sugar to China before despatching the confiscated steamers to American ports.

Still More Problems

The problem of the sale of the remaining 20,000 tons of centrifugal sugar is tied up with the problem of this year's crop. Sugar is now quoted in the United States at seven cents a pound but with freight rates at their present level, this means a net price to Philippine exporters of little over eight pesos a picul. To give a fair profit, the sugar must sell here at ten pesos a picul.

Like other manufacturers, the producer of centrifugal sugar has had to meet the daily increasing cost of materials and supplies upon which he depends for his output. Thus under present conditions, local centrifugal sugar at ten pesos a picul was a profitable business. If the war continues, this

local price must advance to 12½ pesos to yield a fair profit. But at ten pesos a picul with freights at their present rates, refined sugar must sell at more than seven cents and a half gold a pound in the United States to yield the Philippine producer a profit.

The increasing price of sugar in the American market has not brought an increasing profit to Philippine sugar men. The increase has been absorbed by increased freights and has not gone to offset the increasing costs of production. Local sugar men feel that the only solution of the Philippine sugar problem is the maximum price for unrefined centrifugal sugar is fixed at six cents, is government regulation of sugar freights.

It is understood that the American government proposes to put a maximum price on refined beet sugar of seven and a quarter cents a pound and on refined centrifugal sugar of seven and a half cents. This means that for 96 grade centrifugal sugar such as the central of the Philippines produce, unrefined, the New York price will be six cents. It is impossible under present shipping conditions to put Philippine sugar into the New York market at that price without loss.

The American investigators in going into the question of sugar production costs, agreed that the pre-war cost of Cuban sugar in Havana could be figured at two cents a pound. They were willing to admit that sugar production costs had increased a hundred per cent in the period of the war. They, therefore, began their calculations with the basic figure of four cents a pound as the cost of producing sugar in Cuba. Then they added a cent and a half for carriage and other expenses, figured a half cent for profit and tentatively put the maximum of centrifugal sugar, unrefined, at six cents.

Philippines Not Consulted

Such a system of calculation would have been satisfactory to Philippine sugar men. But the American investigators have consulted Hawaii, the American sugar men, Cuba and Porto Rico but have left the Philippines out of their calculations entirely. That is the rub which is going to deal Philippine sugar interests so severe a blow in the event of the adoption of the proposed maximum of six cents a pound for refined sugar. With such a price, it is so immediate demand of justice that the United States government take charge of sugar space on the Pacific, insuring upon such transportation charges as will enable the Philippine

LOUISIANA CROP IS PROMISING TO BE BIG

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana, September 11.—The condition of the Louisiana cane crop on September 1 is given as 90 per cent of normal, by the monthly report of the bureau of crop estimates of the United States department of agriculture. This compares with an average September 1 condition for the past ten years of 88 per cent.

Whether the actual crop outcome will come up to advance expectations, however, depends upon the prevailing weather conditions between the present time and the beginning of the grinding season. The weather of late has been generally favorable, but the crop still needs more warm, rainy days to bring it to maturity.

Such conditions are the more essential because the crop this year is unusually late one. Some well-informed sugar men say that they believe it will be fully a month late, and that they do not expect more than half a dozen houses to start grinding before the end of October. This adds greatly to the danger of injury from early cold weather.

product to enter the American market on terms similar to those enjoyed by Hawaii and Cuba.

To add to this dilemma is the fact that recent telegrams from the States indicate that while the price of seven cents a pound is quoted, there are practically no transfers or sales. The whole sugar industry seems to be awaiting the action of the government in fixing prices. Six cents has been mentioned as a possible maximum for centrifugal sugar to be insisted upon by the food dictator, no one is willing to buy at seven.

Hold For Higher Prices

A further complication is added by the fact that many of the Iloilo sugar men are holding out for higher prices. Recently an offer was made them at \$1.25 a picul but they refused, preferring to take their chances on a sale to the States on a commission basis. As a result their net return was something under ten pesos a picul.

With freights at \$40 a ton to the Pacific Coast and overland transportation charges to be met, there is little profit in Philippine centrifugal sugar, if any, and little chance to move the 20,000 tons of this grade still left in Iloilo.

But the big problem is ahead. The Negro crop is estimated at least 150,000 tons and it may go to 200,000 tons. Meanwhile there is warehouse space in Iloilo available for only little over 100,000 tons of this. Unless the United States shipping board comes to the relief of the Islands, a continuous sugar problem is threatened for next year.

Record and Forecast of Hawaiian Sugar Crops As of Uneven Dates To Oct. 1, 1917

The Hawaiian sugar plantation fiscal year is from October 1 to September 30.

Forty-four plantations in the Hawaiian Islands have mills. In addition there are seven independent cane planters whose cane is ground on shares, who do business on such a large scale that their share of sugar is listed separately. Pacific Sugar Mill's tonnage shipped is included in the figures for Honolulu. Honolulu Plantation's tonnage is refined sugar.

Plantations without mills are indicated in this table by an asterisk (*). Statistics are of tons of 2000 pounds.

PLANTATION.	Crop 1916 Tons of Sugar Shipped.	Crop 1917 Estimated as of June 1, 1917.	Crop 1917 Tons Sugar Shipped Sept. 1, 1917.
HAWAII—			
Ola Sugar Co., Ltd.	21,564	30,000*	25,052
Wai-kea Mill Co.	12,707	15,000	12,231
Hilo Sugar Co.	10,150	15,000	14,572
Hawaii Mill Co., Ltd.	1,801	3,500	3,625
Onomom Sugar Co.	18,081	20,000	20,603
Panakea Sugar Co.	9,327	10,500	10,426
Honoum Sugar Co.	6,531	9,500	9,553
Hakala Plantation Co.	15,951	19,000	16,690
Lanipahoehoe Sugar Co.	10,125	14,500	10,790
Kaiviki Sugar Co., Ltd.	4,995	6,500	6,732
Kaunua Plantation Co.	3,126	4,000	4,570
Hamakua Mill Co.	7,631	11,000	9,491
Panakea Sugar Plantation Co.	7,830	10,000	9,873
Honokaa Sugar Co.	7,203	8,700	8,700
Pacific Sugar Mill	5,656	7,800	161,134
Niuli Mill and Plantation	2,110	2,600	1,822
Halawa Plantation	1,705	2,550	1,732
Kohala Sugar Co.	4,148	6,200	5,655
Union Mill Co.	2,131	3,900	2,036
Hawi Mill and Plantation	6,229	8,400	7,034
Panakea Plantation	963	1,000	725
Kona Development Co., Ltd.	144	5,000	4,528
Honolulu Sugar Plantation Co.	9,170	7,000	4,094
Honolulu Agricultural Co.	14,600	15,000	7,615
Total	190,817	234,450	205,603
MAUI—			
Pioneer Mill Co., Ltd.	32,364	33,000	30,518
Olowalu Co.	1,850	2,000	1,946
Wailuku Sugar Co.	14,651	15,500	15,013
Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co.	58,815	52,812	53,570
Maui Agricultural Co.	33,649	36,500	35,832
Kapeku Plantation Co., Ltd.	6,721	6,100	6,210
Kipahulu Sugar Co.	840	2,500	1,474
Total	148,890	149,712	144,563
OAHU—			
Honolulu Plantation Co.	20,586	19,000	14,425
Oahu Sugar Co., Ltd.	33,555	35,000	33,094
Ewa Plantation Co.	31,752	33,500	33,999
Apokaa Sugar Co., Ltd.	794	900	876
Waimanalo Co.	4,626	5,000	4,241
Wailuku Agricultural Co., Ltd.	30,959	30,400	27,624
Kahuku Plantation Co.	4,721	7,500	8,128
Kala Plantation	1,541	1,200	1,192
Koolau Agricultural Co., Ltd.	971	520	566
Waimanalo Sugar Co.	5,142	4,700	3,343
Total	134,646	137,720	127,488
KAUAI—			
Lihou Plantation Co., Ltd.	18,877	21,250	18,652
Grove Farm Plantation	4,758	3,750	5,113
Koloa Sugar Company, The	7,930	9,500	9,184
McBryde Sugar Co., Ltd.	15,840	16,500	17,087
Hawaiian Sugar Co.	23,101	22,000	22,932
Gay & Robinson	4,650	4,500	4,163
Waiman Sugar Mill Co., The	1,480	1,900	1,963
Kala Sugar Co., Ltd.	16,087	16,500	18,345
Edwin V. Knudsen	909	900	731
Kilauea Sugar Plantation Co.	5,146	6,000	5,283
Maunaloa Sugar Co.	9,087	12,300	13,207
Total	107,928	115,300	116,660
HAWAII	190,817	234,450	205,603
MAUI	148,890	149,712	144,563
OAHU	134,646	137,720	127,488
KAUAI	107,928	115,300	116,660
Totals	582,281	637,182	594,314

FILLING IN BLANKS IS SIMPLE AFFAIR

Directions Are Explicit But Questions Are Few and Easily Answered By Agents

Plantation agencies have found that the application blanks for licenses for the carrying on of sugar business under President Wilson's proclamation of September 7 ask very little information which is not readily at their command and are losing no time in filling out the blanks. There are two questions, however, which give some of the plantations some trouble and on which the agencies have to get definite figures. One of these is storage capacity and the other is the quantity of molasses and syrup manufactured. Most of the plantations have enlarged their storage capacity and the agencies are not able without inquiry to say how many bags of sugar can be stored.

While the directions which accompany the application blanks are specific and rather lengthy, the applications themselves are not voluminous. Only a dozen questions are asked. These are:

1. Name of owner.
2. Individual, firm or corporation.
3. Address.
4. Whether importer, manufacturer or refiner.
5. Volume of business, i. e. annual sales sugar in pounds and molasses and syrups in gallons.
6. Number of plants operated.
7. Amount of syrups and molasses produced in 1914, 1915 and 1916.
8. Total warehouse storage capacity.
9. Name of owner.
10. Address of owner.
11. Officers or managing agents of corporation or association or members of partnership.
12. Where a company has more than one

RATE INCREASE SUSPENDED

WASHINGTON, September 8.—The Interstate Commerce Commission today suspended until January 7, 1918, Washington's tariff raising increased commodity rates on sugar in carload lots from New Orleans to various points in Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia. The proposed rates are from two-tenths to three and two-tenths cents per hundred pounds higher than those now in effect.

DIVIDENDS DISCONTINUED

Directors of Pacific Sugar Mill at a meeting held early this week voted to discontinue the payment of dividends after October 15 and until further notice. This action was taken because the drought on Hawaii makes it impossible to determine what crop the mill may expect next year.

SUGAR BONUS RATE

To the end of September the rate which plantation laborers will receive as their bonuses is figured as seventy-five per cent by the Sugar Planters.

WAILUA ENDS GRIND

Wailua Agricultural Company finished its grind last week with a total of 29,023 tons. This output is 1574 tons under earlier estimates.

plant the location of each plant, its character, production of sugar and of molasses and syrup in 1914, 1915 and 1916 and storage capacity is asked. Each plantation has received a set of duplicate blanks, directions to sign and copy of the President's proclamation.

No regulations or proposed regulations for the conduct of the business accompanied the blanks and directions so that there is no more light on methods of control or requirements than there was before the receipt of blanks.

Rain In Spots Is Only Sign of Break In Drought

Some Parts of Hawaii Much Benefitted and All Receive a Little Moisture — Some Good Rains in Highlands of Maui Reported

In spots only there have been signs of a breaking in the drought. Last week there were more rains in Hawaii than in the near past but they did not visit all sections. The dry sections had slightly more rainfall but the total is a fractional inch at most of the observation stations in those sections. Thus far this week no advices of good rains have come from the Big Island.

In the higher lands of Maui there have been some good rains. A local business man who has just returned from Haleakala said yesterday that on the way down from the mountain the upper plantations were wet but that the lower lands were dry and on these the cane looked bad, was dried and yellow.

Northern Hawaii Dry

North Kohala had little rain last week and no reports of good rains so far this week. Government reports gave Punahele Ranch 0.17, Kohala Mill 0.20, Honokaa 0.07, and Panauha 0.03 are the Hamakua reports and Ooaka 0.42, and Lanipahoehoe 0.66 are the North Hilo reports.

Summarizing the weather conditions the government report says:

Showers were more frequent and the cane showed a decided improvement in most sections of Hawaii during the past week. Good rains were received in the Hilo districts, but more is needed. On Maui only light showers were received which were not sufficient to wet the ground to any depth. Light scattered showers occurred generally on Oahu and Kauai. By islands, the average rainfall for the week was as follows: Hawaii, 1.14 inches; Maui, 0.21 inch; Oahu, 0.43 inch; Kauai, 0.69 inch.

Some Encouraging Reports

The following local reports from various observation stations are given: Honolulu, Hawaii—The first part of the week was hot and dry, the last much cooler with heavy rains in some parts of the lower, middle and upper lands. The 1917 crop is in fine condition and the cane a dark green color. Fine weather for clearing timber land to be planted next year. More rain is needed. The streams are the lowest in years.

Panahawai, Hawaii—The rainfall of 1.28 inches was very much needed. The prevailing showery weather at night and the sunny days are rapidly restoring the natural color to growing crops and brightening the prospects for planters and farmers.

Volcano Observatory, Hawaii—Showers and drizzle during the afternoons and nights. Fresh and gusty N. E. trade winds prevailed. Drought situation improved.

Kapoho, Hawaii—Cloudy weather with gentle Northeast winds.

Hauku Experiment Station, Maui—Light nightly showers are proving very favorable for limited plantings of beans in the Hilo district. However, the moisture has not yet penetrated sufficiently for the planting of potatoes and other deep rooted crops.

Reports from Maui yesterday were of threatening weather with wind veering forward and back and such cloudy weather had prevailed for several days with only light rains in the lower lands.

From Hawaii there were no rain reports. No word had come to the Oahu agents. But it was said there that word would have been received had there been a break in the drought.

REMOVAL OF PALATIAL LINERS KEENLY FELT

Beaver Sails With Inordinate Number of Passengers

The Beaver is leaving San Francisco for Portland so crowded with passengers that her owners have been compelled to take out a special permit allowing them to accommodate the unusual number. This is one of the results of the removal of the two Hill liners, the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern by the United States Shipping Board. This has created undue travel pressure, and shipping men have not yet discovered a means of relieving it, owing to the inordinate scarcity of tonnage.

DIPHTHERIA—HOW IT MAY BE AVOIDED.

Diphtheria is usually contracted when the child has a cold. The cold prepares the child's system for the reception and development of the diphtheria germs. When there are cases of diphtheria in the neighborhood children that have colds should be kept at home and off the street until recovered. Give them Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and they will not have to remain at home long. It also cleans out the entire body, which form in a child's throat when it has a cold, and minimizes the risk of contracting infectious diseases. For sale by all dealers, Benson, Smith & Co. Ltd. Agts. for Hawaii.—Advertisement